

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Tadao ARIMA et al.

Application No.: To be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To be Assigned

Filed: March 2, 2004

Examiner: To be Assigned

For: OPTICAL FIBER SPLICER AND OPTICAL FIBER SPLICING METHOD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
  - 1a.  Form PTO-1449.
  - 1b.  Copies of IDS citations.
  - 1c.  An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
  - 1d.  English language Abstract (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
  - 1e.  Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
2.  In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is  
(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)
  - 2a.  satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed "English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office". (See MPEP 609, Minimum Requirements for an Information Disclosure Statement, Part A(3): Concise Explanation of Relevance, pp. 600-100 to 600-101, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000.)
  - 2b.  set forth in the application.

2c.  satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.

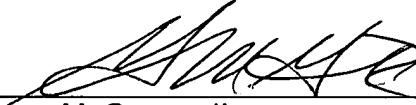
2d.  enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.

3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: March 2, 2004  
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By:   
Gene M. Garner, II  
Registration No. 34,172

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
1837.1010APPLICATION NO.  
To be Assigned

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

Tadao ARIMA et al.

FILING DATE

March 2, 2004

GROUP ART UNIT

To be Assigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES    NO
	AG	02-028604	01/30/90	JAPAN			ABST
	AH	02-044037	02/14/90	JAPAN			ABST
	AI	2002-247173	08/30/02	JAPAN			ABST
	AJ	2001-344503	12/14/01	JAPAN			ABST
	AK						
	AL						

## OTHER REFERENCES (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)

AM	
AN	
AO	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

## ATTACHMENT 1(e)

<b>EXPLANATIONS OF RELEVANCY OF REFERENCES</b>	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	APPLICATION NO.
	1837.1010	To be Assigned
	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	
	Tadao ARIMA et al.	
	FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
	March 2, 2004	To be Assigned

<i>Publication Number</i>	<i>Date of Patent</i>	<i>Concise Explanation of the Relevance</i>
JP02-028604A	January 30, 1990	Abstract
JP02-044037A	February 14, 1990	"
JP2002-247173A	August 30, 2002	"
JP2001-344503A	December 14, 2001	"